

MAJOR CHANGES IN THE ALARM SYSTEMS ORDINANCE

4-1-08

SYSTEMIC CHANGES

- The ordinance provides for licensing alarm agents as well as alarm businesses.
- The ordinance recognizes that other cities have reciprocal arrangements for licensing alarm businesses and alarm agents, and positions Scottsdale to join in those reciprocal arrangements. The reciprocal arrangements should help information sharing and enforcement.

FEE CHANGES

- Fees for an alarm permit renewal are raised from \$5 to \$10 to recover costs of issuance.
- Fees for false alarms are raised as follows:

<u>Activations</u>	<u>Current Service Charge</u>	<u>Proposed Service Charge</u>
First and second	None	None
Third	50.00	50.00
Fourth	75.00	75.00
Fifth	75.00	100.00
Sixth	100.00	100.00
Seventh	100.00	200.00
Eighth	100.00	200.00
Ninth	100.00	200.00
Tenth or more	200.00 each	200.00 each

- Fees for alarm business licenses, alarm agent licenses, and alarm user permits are removed from the ordinance and placed in a separate fee schedule to be adopted by the city council.

CHANGES AFFECTING ALARM BUSINESSES AND ALARM AGENTS

- The ordinance requires alarm businesses to initiate a second call to a responsible party designated by the alarm user to verify whether the alarm activation is false, to avoid unnecessary public safety response.
- The ordinance requires alarm businesses to keep more complete records of the alarm systems they install or service, including actions taken to verify alarm activations.
- The ordinance incorporates up-to-date technical standards for alarm system installation.
- The ordinance requires an alarm agent to be a certified electronic systems technician or certified systems installer no later than July 1, 2011.
- The ordinance expands the list of offenses directed at substandard work and defective alarm systems installed by alarm businesses and alarm agents.

CHANGES AFFECTING ALARM USERS

- The ordinance allows a longer period (from 3 to 7 days) for an alarm user to apply for an alarm permit after an alarm system is placed in operation.
- The ordinance specifies the responsibilities of alarm users (individuals, businesses, landlords and tenants) for applying for permits, avoiding avoid false alarm activations and assisting the city to respond efficiently to all alarm activations.
- The ordinance requires an alarm user to designate at least 2 responsible parties to respond to the premises, and provide those parties with access and code numbers to reset the alarm system.
- The ordinance allows a responsible party 30 minutes (rather than 20 minutes) to arrive at the premises of the activated alarm system.
- The ordinance adds a requirement to inspect alarm systems annually to maintain them in good working order; this inspection may be performed by the alarm user.
- The ordinance allows a longer grace period (from 21 to 30 days) for paying service charges.
- The ordinance waives all filing fees for appeals from service charges for false alarm activations.
- The ordinance adds provisions to place a lien against property where false alarm service charges remain unpaid.
- The ordinance recognizes the Police Department's successful alarm school and provides for waiving certain alarm system activations and service charges for attendance.
- The ordinance expands the remedies the city may use to enhance options for reducing false alarms, including addressing alarm system abuses and allowing consent orders, rather than being limited to criminal enforcement.
- The ordinance adds a confidentiality provision to protect certain alarm user and alarm system information from public disclosure.
- The ordinance specifically limits city liability in its response to an alarm activation.

MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES

- The ordinance is completely restructured.
- The ordinance refers to and aligns more closely with the general provisions for other regulatory licenses.